

The historic Dr. Jordan house with its brick ends and gambrel roof prior to demolition.

## LOST: History in Bricks and Mortar or Clippings from an Old Scrapbook

*Nansemond Landmark Razed* was the caption of the following article written by Miss Daisy Nurney for a Norfolk newspaper in 1936. A new home was built on the same site that same year. The house shown, and its replacement, were the early homes of Judge William Wellington Jones.

"The quaint old colonial house which was stood for two and a quarter centuries in historic 'lower parish' of Nansemond County, and which has been known to the people of the past sever decades as, 'The Dr. Jordan' house, is being demolished.

This lovely old house, built in 1711 by Pasco Turner, has the distinction of having sheltered members of the Pasco Turner's family and his lineal descendants these 225 years.

The place, now owned by Roy Jones, a grandson of Dr. William Jordan, known for many years around Driver as 'Dr. Billy Jordan,' came down to Dr. Jordan from his great-great-grandfather, Pasco Turner.

Some time ago, Mr. Jones calling in a carpenter to make some repairs to the home, was shocked to find the entire building was just a shell. Termites had eaten into the underpinning, the flooring and the rafters.

It was found that the frame work of the house, which had a brick basement and a brick end, was too far gone for repairs. Workmen, while tearing down the building, found hidden in the walls, some valuable papers which were claimed by Mr. Jones.

The old basement, which in the first hundred years of the life of the house, was used as a kitchen and had the big old-fashioned fireplace, in which the culinary arts of a day that is gone were practiced. In later days, some ancestor of Dr. Jordan had bricked up the recess over the old fireplace, and in this nook

was found one of the treasures safely hidden away.

### *Book of Common Prayer* *Printed in 1761 Found*

A copy of the Book of Common Prayer, of the Church of England, printed in 1761, was found safely hidden in the recess. The preface to this old, sere and yellow book, printed in Old English says:

'The Book of Common Prayer and the Administration of the Sacraments and other rites and ceremonies of the Church, according to the use of the Church of England, together with the Psalter or Psalms of David, pointed and they are to be said or sung in the Church. Edinburgh: Printed by Alexander Kincaid, His Majesty's Printer, in 1761.'

'The most interesting and, from a collector's point of view, the most valuable of the papers found in the walls of the house, is a deed, in introduction to which reads:

'Virginia, September 1, 1714: This indenture made the Twenty-sixth of April in the Thirteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Ladye Anne by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Queen and Defender of the Faith, and in the year of Our Lord, Seventeen Hundred and Fourteen, between Michael Brinkley, Jr., son of Michael Brinkley of Upper Parish of Nansemond County on the one part, and Thomas Boyd of the County and Parish aforesaid, of the other part.' *Continued on p.2*



*Continued from Page 1:*

"The deed conveys a parcel of land in Nansemond County 'for and in consideration of three thousand pounds of tobacco.' The deed is signed by Michael Brinkley and his seal in red wax is affixed, and the seal is stamped with his coat of arms. The deed is witnessed by Richard Brinkley and Elizabeth Brinkley.

The paper is yellow with age, and brittle to the touch; the writing is small and difficult to read, with its many flourishes and quaint spelling.

On the back of the deed is written: 'At a court held for Nansemond County, April 28, 1714, Michael Brinkley came into court and acknowledged his deed of releasement to Thomas Boyd, which is ordered recorded.'

#### *Another Old Deed Hidden in House*

A second paper of interest, hidden in the old house, was a deed made in 1733, the introduction to which reads:

'George The Second, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, to all whom these presents shall come, Greetings:

'Know ye, that for divers good causes and considerations, but more especially for and in consideration of the sum of forty shillings, of good and lawful Moneye for our use paid to our Receiver General of our Revenue in this our Dominion of Virginia, We have granted and confirmed by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, and do give, grant and confirm unto David O'Neal and John Beamon one certain tract or parcel of low sunken land, containing three hundred and ninety-nine acres lying and being in the Upper Parish of Nansemond River, and on the South side of the main road.'

The deed also calls for a rental of one shilling a year to be paid 'upon the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, provided always that if three years of the said fee rent shall at any time be in arrears and unpaid, then the estate hereby granted shall cease, and be utterly determined, and thereafter it shall and may be lawful to and for us, our heirs and successors to grant the same land and appurtenances unto such other persons as we, our successors shall think it fit.'

The deed further says: 'Letters patent to be made, witnessed by our trusty and well-beloved William Gooch, Esquire, our Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of our said Colony and Dominion at Williamsburg and to this

affixed the Seal of our said Colony the twentieth day of May, One thousand, Seven Hundred and Thirty three.'

The deed is signed by George Holden, deputy clerk. Sometime, around 1750, one Daniel Turner, probably a son of Pasco Turner, or maybe a grandson, wrote some lines on the back of this old deed: 'January 18th Day, 1762, Madam, to express your beauty most notable, Your face it shines like the kitchen table.'

'Courteous Laidy, These lines present unto your eyes to give my heart content—Now Dear Laidy on my bending Knees I Kneal.'

#### *Interesting Items In Account Book*

Safely hidden in the forgotten receptacle in the walls of the old house were found old accounts and an old book of items of long ago. One of them was a bill made out against one S. Fletcher, in 1763, some of the items reading:

'To dressing my wigs, 6 shillings, 9 pence; to four days' horse hire, 10 shillings; to 1 Grey wig, 2 pounds, 5 shillings; to cash at Hertford Court, 10 shillings.'

Mr. Fletcher, in October, 1760, paid on his account, according to a notation made on the bill, the sum of 12 pounds; in 1771 he again made a payment of 2 pounds and 5 shillings.

A scrap of paper, part, evidently of a letter written to Pasco Turner, around the early 1700's, from a lady in North Carolina, states that her sons, sent to schools in Nansemond County, had been sent home, on account of the crowded condition of the schools. She asks Mr. Turner, when "comes for the Cousin Turner to bring the children's cloathes."

She also says that she is 'much disappointed', in that she felt, could the children have stayed in the school they would have 'learnt.'

Hundreds of tourists, driving down to Bennett's Creek, have passed the old 'Dr. Jordan' house and have paused to admire its lovely lines, set in a grove of ancient trees.

It was one of the early houses, not only of Nansemond County, but of Virginia, having been built just 12 years after the famous 'oldest' house in Yorktown, which bears the date 1699.

'Nothing but the fact that it was just about to fall in' stated Mrs. Roy Jones, 'would have persuaded us to tear it down.'

Some of the notes found indicate that it was repaired in 1776."



### **Meet the Press: Miss Daisy Nurney 1873-1948**

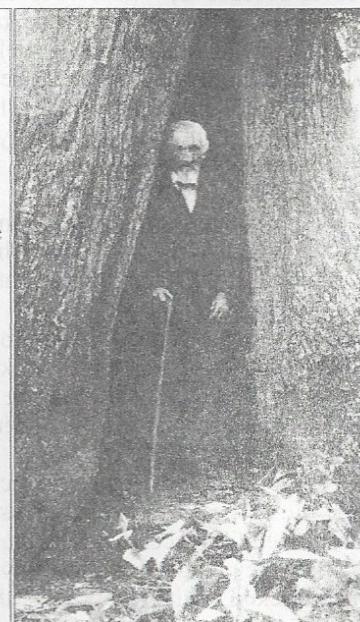
Miss Nurney appeared previously in our Kings Fork issue in March 2008. She was born in Rocky Mount, NC, but her family was from Nurneyville in southern Nansemond County. She was teaching at King's Fork in the 1890s. By 1912 she had moved into town when she taught and worked for a forerunner of the Virginian Pilot. Reportedly she could write an article while selling an ad on the phone and talking to visitors.

*Information from Carole Maguire's  
Suffolk Journal, Vol. II*

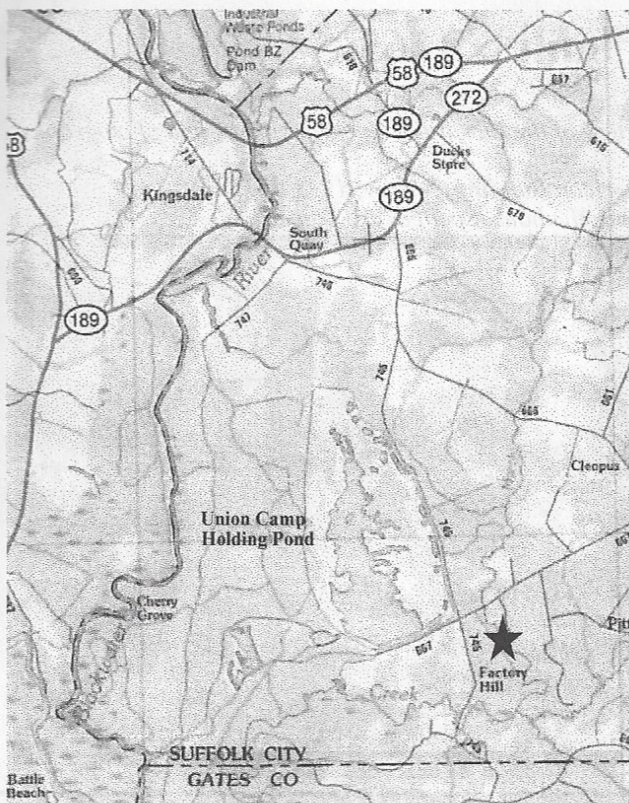
#### A Record of Farms and Their Owners in the Lower Parish of Nansemond County, Virginia

By Dr. William Turner Jordan was the first book published by the Suffolk Nansemond Historical Society and is for sale in our Train Station Museum gift shop.

*Pictured right: Dr. Jordan, 85, stands inside the trunk of a landmark tree reported to be at least 200 years old at the time this picture was taken in 1920.*



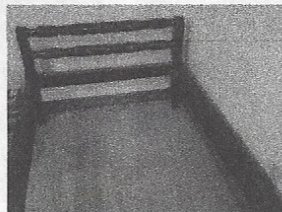




## Factory Hill

An inquiry inspired by our scrapbook pages

It's on good maps of Suffolk or old Nansemond County near the Somerton Creek. Recently we heard—at last!—some news of Factory Hill. Members of the Gardner family (see the King/Hare House this issue) report that their family owned a number of pieces of furniture said to have been made in a 19th century factory on a tributary of Somerton Creek at the place called Factory Hill. Some of the furniture was lost in a fire but a few pieces remain such as the day bed pictured here. Our sources, H. G. Eason and Carol Whitaker, say they were told that the furniture business and a grist mill were the center of the Factory Hill community. The bed (pictured) by the way, is said to have come with the purchase of the Hare House, below. The house stood not far from Factory Hill as the crow flies.



Map from:  
1999 DeLorme Atlas and Gazetteer, p 33  
Photos courtesy of Sandra Council

## Hare House

When a picture of this house appeared in the Virginian Pilot in 1942 it was called "the Hare House" by historian W.E. MacClenny. MacClenny reported at the time that the brick ended house on Somerton Creek was thought to have been built around 1700. Some historians believe that this property was part of a land grant to Michael King (the Immigrant) in the 1670s. His granddaughter married a Quaker named Hare, and perhaps inherited the house. The Hare family owned the property until the 1890s when it was bought by John Gardner, whose heirs still own it today. The house was demolished circa 1975 and its excellent timbers were sold.

We're told by those who knew the house that it had a full basement with two fireplaces. It stood on the highest ground on the farm. When Somerton Creek flooded in 1999, the former house site stayed high and dry. This house stood on Somerton Creek off of present day Camp Pond Road.

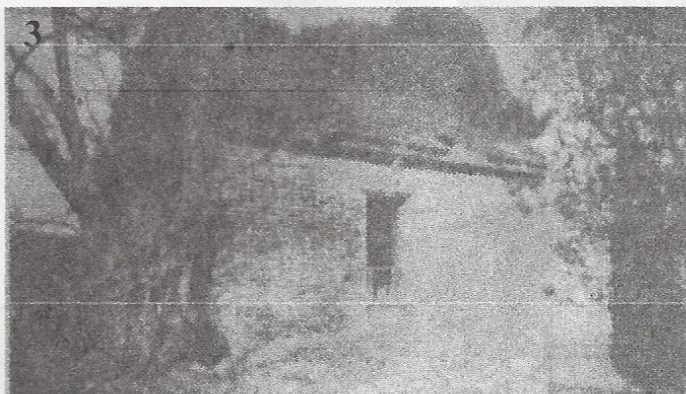


Special Thanks to H.G. Eason for use of this photograph showing the rear of the house. The front faced Somerton Creek.

## The Abbey

When this photo of The Abbey appeared in the Virginian Pilot in August of 1942, it was said to be the oldest house standing in Nansemond County. Thought to have been built before 1650 it was reportedly used as the rectory for the first church in the county. The church and the rectory stood to the right of modern day Route 10 as one approaches the Reid's Ferry Bridge from downtown Suffolk. The house and church preceded the town by 100 years. Even at the time of this photo's original publication it was noted to be a "ruin of its former glory."

Do readers have any idea when this was demolished?



Please see our map on page 10 to match the numbered photographs to their former locations.

We apologize for the poor quality of some of the images used. However we feel that their rarity makes up for their lack of clarity.



# The Joyner Farmhouse, built c. 1765

1933-1935

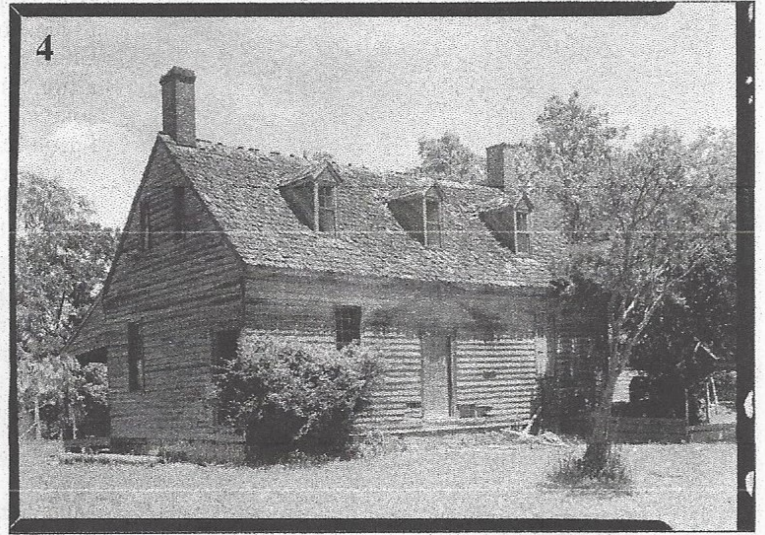
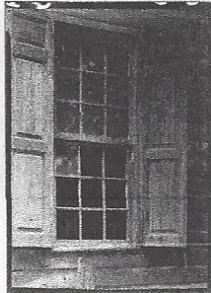
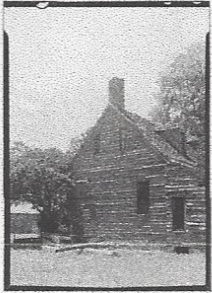
## Historic American Buildings Survey

This house stood, and still stands to some degree, on Matoaka Road on the William Joyner farm, over looking Lake Prince (formerly the Western branch of the Nansemond River). This reporter recalls hearing that it was perhaps a waystation or tavern for travelers in the early days. Early in the 20th century the old house became a shed when a newer farmhouse was built..

*Photos courtesy of the Library of Congress prints and photographs division.*

*Historic American Buildings Survey, 1933-1935*

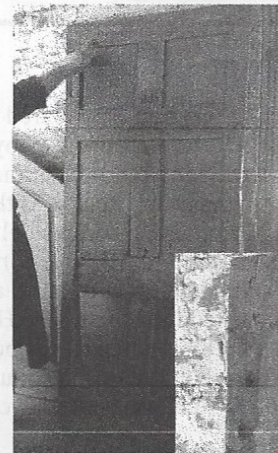
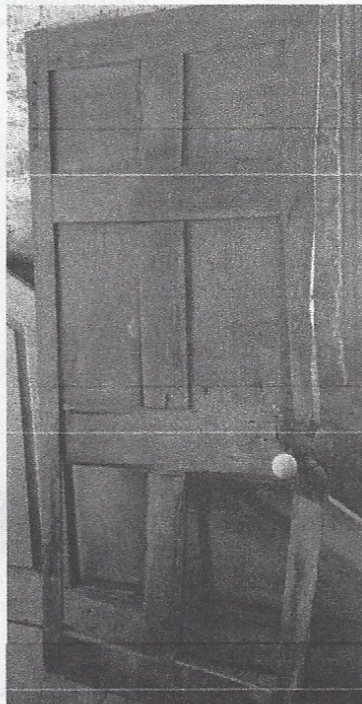
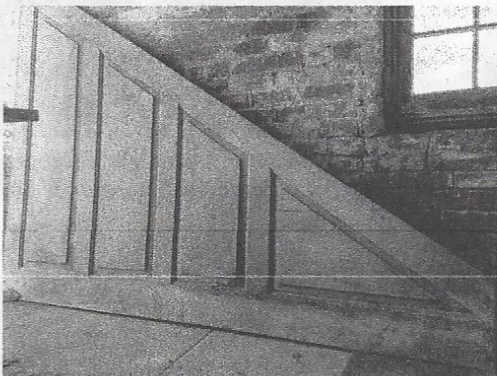
*Note: LOC has the house spelled as "Joiner"*



2015

## What was saved

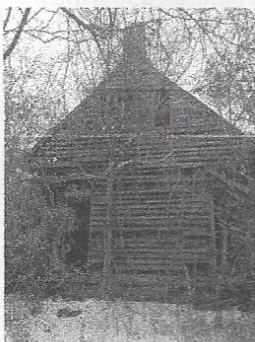
(Below) This paneled stair wall retains traces of its original green paint. It was among items SNHS was able to save from the house in the 1980s when it was threatened with demolition. Also recovered are the front door (pictured right) and spindles from the staircase (not pictured). Can anyone add any additional information?



(Right)  
Front door.

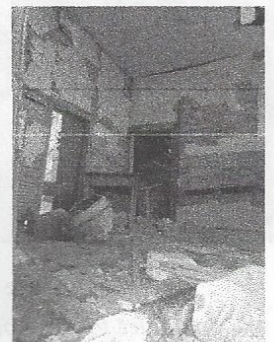
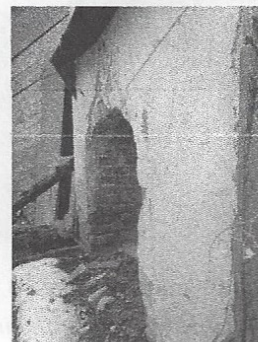
This door style has been referred to as a "Cross & Bible" or 6 panel door.

Notice the ghost marks of the original H & L or strap hinges.



(Left) Exterior view of the Joyner farmhouse today.

(Right) Interior views of the home show the severe damage the house has withstood after years of disuse and neglect.







## SAVED: Pembroke, c. 1701

The following article and lower right photo are from the 1958 Suffolk-Nansemond Festival booklet:

"According to Mr. Thomas Waterman in his *Colonial Dwellings of America*, published in 1950, Pembroke is one of two remaining U-shaped houses in existence in Virginia today. It is a story and a half in height and is build of old English brick. The walls are unusually thick and the bricks are laid in Flemish Bond.

Pembroke, named for the Earl of Pembroke, was built in 1701 by an eccentric English sea captain, known only as "Captain Jack," who soon mysteriously disappeared leaving his overseer, one Patrick Wilkinson, in possession of the plantation.

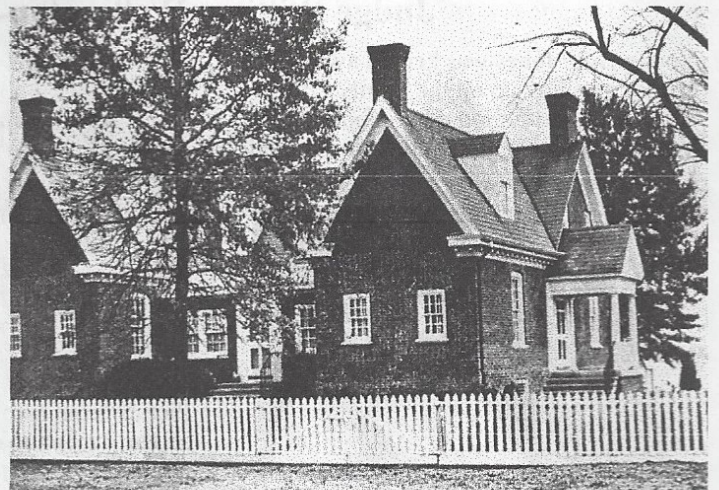
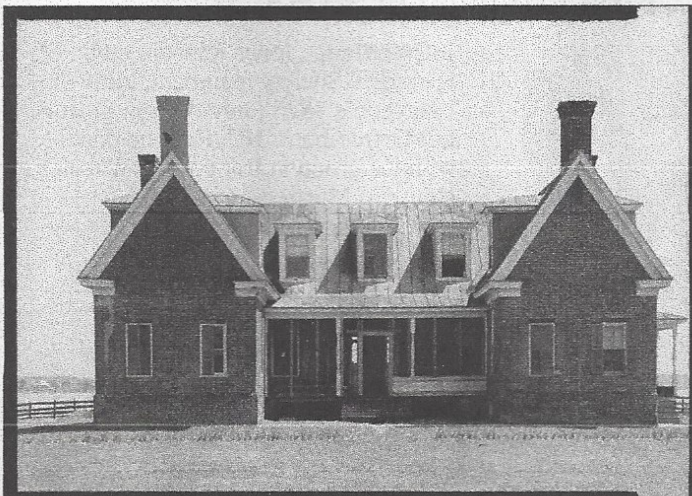
Three wars, the Revolution, the War of 1812, and the War Between the States, have left their mark on Pembroke as the many names and dates caved in the old brick attest. Many bullet holes are visible and, during the restoration of the house, cannon balls were found lodged in the riverfront façade. The British burned the interior during the War of 1812, but it has now been restored within the original walls in the most authentic manner.

In the spring of 1865, Lt. Roy of the Union Army came up the Nansemond River, entered Cedar Creek and fired on Pembroke in order to frighten the slaves living on the plantation. Some of the slaves went over to the "Yankees" and disclosed the fact that the only white people at home on the plantation were the widow and children of James Hunter Godwin, who had died in 1859. In all probability this was what saved the house from being severely shelled or burned. However the Northern soldiers did come ashore and take what they wanted, including all of the silver.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Warrington, the present owners, bought the plantation in 1940. Originally there was an upper and lower Pembroke, but during the years many acres have been sold. Today there are 110 acres under cultivation and the rest in woodland. The restoration of the house was conducted under the supervision of Mr. George W. Lewis of Williamsburg.

In recognition of its historic and architectural importance, Pembroke has been selected for recording by the Historic American Buildings Survey, and an outline of its history and physical condition completed and forwarded to Washington."

**NOTE:** the porch seen on the below left photograph was later enclosed to create an entrance hall on the land side of the building, as can be seen in the photo on the lower right.



Top and lower left photographs courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey, 1933-1935

Image courtesy of Suffolk-Nansemond Festival, 1958  
Shown after restoration by Mr. and Mrs. Warrington. The house is still owned by their heirs.



# News from the Phillips-Dawson House

We are back at the renovations again—this time in what we commonly refer to as the “music room\*.” This renovation is particularly exciting because our plan is to use this room as a future display space to showcase rotating exhibits. No further details on that at this time but you can bet that you’ll be the first to know! The snow has made life around here a bit challenging and our office was closed multiple days due to the weather. But we are hopeful that will all be behind us as we gear up for our Annual Spring Membership Meeting.

If you’ve been watching our Facebook page you might have noticed that one of our February posts was shared to over 8,000 people! We try to post pictures and items from our collections at least once a day so be sure to check us out if you haven’t and see what you’ve been missing! And don’t forget to email us ([info@suffolkhistory.org](mailto:info@suffolkhistory.org)) or call us at 757-539-2781 with questions. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely, *Nicole Lorenzen*, Executive Director

\*So called because this was where Madame Dawson taught piano lessons and her students gave recitals.



## NEWS FROM THE TRAIN STATION

It’s been a busy winter so far at the Train Station—and full of repairs! Thanks to summer storms there was considerable water damage to areas of the floor (pictured right) which has now been replaced. Unfortunately the repair work did necessitate closing the station to guests for a few weeks but we are happy to announce that the Train Station is back open! Stop back in to see the changes for yourself! Volunteers are always welcome so if you like what you see consider helping out—we have a flexible schedule!

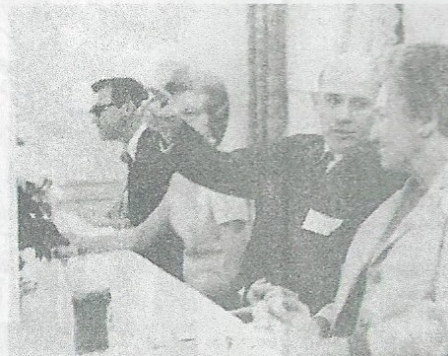
Touch-A-Truck will be here sooner than you think and we are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join our committee! Call 757-923-4750 for more information!

And don’t forget that March is National Peanut Month! Stop by the Train Station Museum to satisfy your craving!



## A Lifelong Eye to History: Judge William Wellington Jones, First President of SNHS

Young Billy Jones was keenly aware of history growing up on the family farm. He attended a reunion of Confederate Veterans with his grandfather and started a collection of autographs of notable people who made history in his time.



Picture from an old scrapbook shows an early meeting of the Historical Society, 1960s.

Left to right: H.R. Gray, Elizabeth Jones, William Wellington Jones, and Angelina Pratt.

In 2009 Judge Jones joined a group of Historical Society members following Lafayette’s 1825 journey from Suffolk to Murfreesboro, NC. Here he poses with the group in front of the Wheeler House in Murfreesboro.





# Touch-a-Truck

## Touch-a-Truck Sponsors:

ROGER FOWLER'S SALES AND SERVICE, INC.



## Calendar of Events

- March 9th Annual Members' Covered Dish Dinner  
6:00pm  
Main St. United Methodist Church  
202 N. Main St
- April 11th Civil War Tour with Kermit Hobbs  
9:30am-11:30am and 1:00pm-4:00pm  
\$12 members/\$13 nonmembers  
\$15/\$17 for the public
- April 12th Civil War Tours with Kermit Hobbs  
1:00pm-4:00pm  
\$12 members/\$13 nonmembers  
\$15/\$17 for the public
- April 12th Cedar Hill Civil War Cemetery Tour
- September Heirloom Sale, Dates TBD  
Accepting donations now
- December 5th 39th Annual Candlelight Tour
- December 6th 39th Annual Candlelight Tour

## FORMER MISS VIRGINIA DIES

Rose Marie Elliott Brown, former Miss Virginia, 1937 graduate of Suffolk High School died in Connecticut in January at the age of 95. The Miss Virginia title was a springboard to a career on Broadway. Her father, Milton "Pete" Elliott, was an early car dealer here and an owner of the Elliot hotel.

Below: This newspaper clipping is from the September 26, 1942 Virginian Pilot.

### Elliotts to See Daughter in Play

Suffolk, Sept. 26.—Mr. and Mrs. Milton T. Elliott left tonight for Philadelphia to see their daughter, Miss Rose Marie Elliott, in the play, "Lady in the Dark," which opens in Philadelphia with Gertrude Lawrence as the star.

Miss Elliott is a member of the cast.

Later Mr. and Mrs. Elliott will visit their son and daughter-in-law, Capt. and Mrs. Bruce B. Elliott, at Clarksville, Tenn.

Captain Elliott is stationed at Camp Campbell, near Clarksville.



Touch-a-Truck photos courtesy of Mary Austin Darden, Susannah Donahue, and Betsy Totten

Photo of Rose Marie Elliott Brown from the Suffolk News-Herald



# Candlelight Tour 2014!



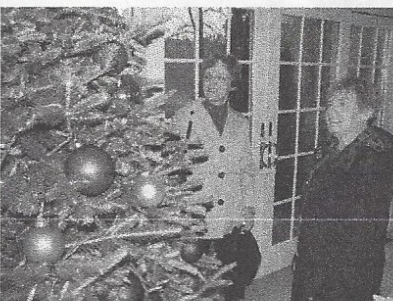
James Adams, IV  
(Above) looks ready  
for Christmas!

Thank you again to all of our wonderful homeowners, hosts & hostesses, and volunteers for making this year's Candlelight Tour such a great success!



Woodward door and  
fireplace (Top)

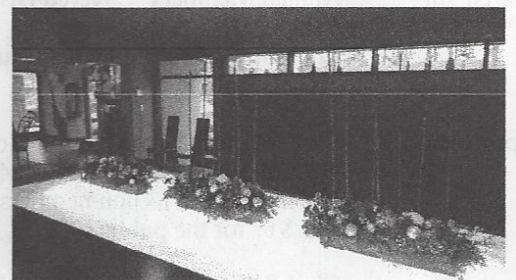
Kim Butler (Above),  
Sandra Birdsong, and  
Susan Garrett (Left)  
decorate the  
Birdsong House.



(Above Center and Right)  
The Johnson's trees brighten  
up their home for the  
holidays. *the Johnson*

(Above Left) Cindy Baker,  
left, and Audrey Robertson  
admire one of the trees  
decorated in the White's  
House. (photo courtesy of the  
Suffolk News-Herald)

(Left) The White's dog  
evaluates the decorations on  
the front door. *at the White house residence*



(Above) The dining room of the Haas House  
featured a unique table decoration!

## Candlelight Tour Sponsors:



Carr Investments; Ferguson, Rawls, & Raines; Nansemond Insurance  
Agency; R.W. Baker & Co. Funeral Home; Chorey & Associates;  
Ladies of Riverview

## Thanks to our Ticket Sponsors:

Boyce, Spady, & Moore, PLC  
and  
Copico

## Sign Sponsor:

Major Signs

Bennett's Creek Pharmacy; Harbourview Oral Surgery; A.B. Cole & Associates; Saunders  
& Ojeda, PC.; Woof to Hoof Pet Services; R.L. Howell D.D.S.;  
Pretlow & Pretlow; Tile & Terrazzo, LLC




# Thanks to our 2015 corporate members:

## Phillips-Dawson Circle (\$5,000+)



## Nansemond Circle (\$1,000+)

Birdsong Peanuts  **FARMERS BANK**  
Community Banking Perfected

## Suffolk Circle (\$500+)

**LW's Lawn Service, LLC**  
LeOtis Williams 615 E. Pinner Street  
Manager P.O. Box 3285  
Complete Landscaping Suffolk, VA 23439  
Services Phone (757) 925.0747  
Licensed & Bonded Fax (757) 925.4943  
"We don't mind working in the heat and our prices just can't be beat"

## Seaboard Circle (\$250+)



Printer—insert Phillips-Dawson House  
picture and info here  
New email: [info@suffolkhistory.org](mailto:info@suffolkhistory.org)

Printer—insert Train Station picture and info here

### PHS Board

Lee King, President  
Sue Woodward, Secretary  
Lynn Barlow, Treasurer  
Darrell Cook  
Brian Donahue

### SNHS Board

Fred Taylor, President  
Lynn Cross, Vice President  
Susannah Donahue, Secretary  
Tommy Arthur, Asst. Treasurer  
Sue Woodward, Historian  
Sandra Council  
Mary Austin Darden  
Lee King  
Susan Musick  
Ralph Nahra

### Gifts and Memorials To Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society

*In memory of Burwell Winslow from  
Ann & Dutch Greene*

*In memory of Sylvia Pond from  
Ann & Dutch Greene and  
Tom & Sue Woodward*

*In memory of Jimmy Crocker from  
Tom & Sue Woodward*

*In memory of  
Judge William Wellington Jones from  
Tom & Sue Woodward*

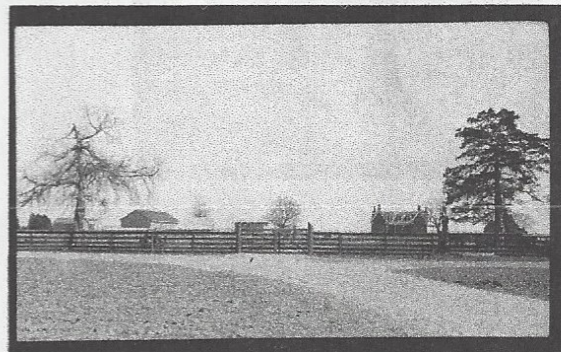
*In memory of  
Betty Ellison  
from Carroll G. Frohman*

*Sylvia Brown Pond*

1940-2014  
Former Treasurer SNHS

*William Wellington Jones*

1923-2015  
First President SNHS



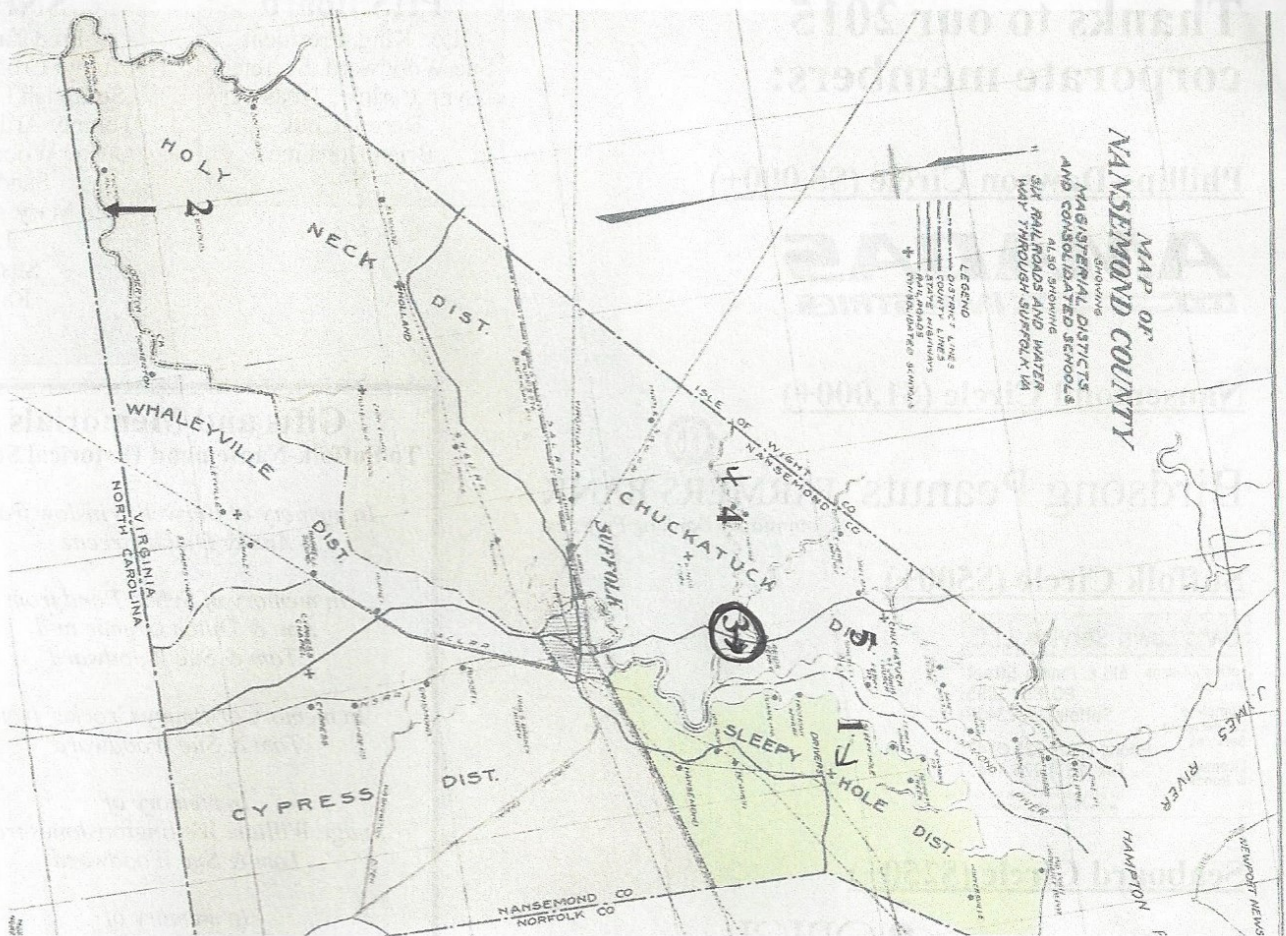
Pembroke 1930s: photo courtesy of the Library of  
Congress Prints and Photographs Division



1. Dr. Jordan House
2. Hare House
3. The Abbey

4. Joyner Farmhouse
5. Pembroke

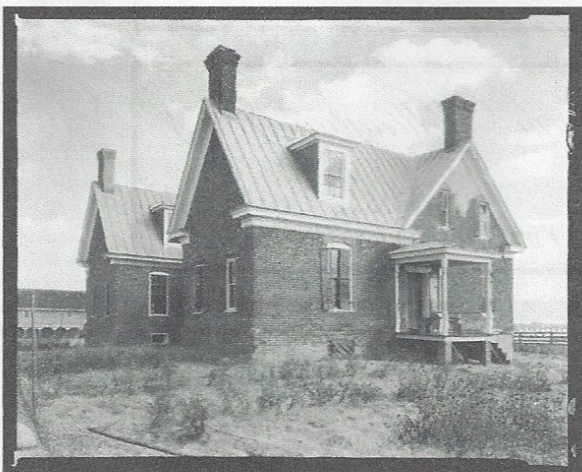
Map is of Old Nansemond County, 1928



Return address/logo

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SUFFOLK, VA  
PERMIT NO. 24



Pembroke, near Chuckatuck, before restoration. Building is still standing today. Read more about it on page 5

Image courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey, 1935